

Tape 34

Side A, 1 - 1 1/8

20 NOV 1978

REMINDER MEMORANDUM

STAT

Talk to  about the President's comments on the oral briefings.

15 minutes for questions.

Value of the appearance.

Value of <sup>re</sup>view of areas not under immediate pressure.

# Investigative Unit For Warren Panel Opposed by FBI

By George Lardner Jr.  
and William Claiborne  
Washington Post Staff Writers

Acting on an early tip from the Central Intelligence Agency, FBI officials apparently successfully resisted efforts of the Warren Commission to organize its own investigating staff.

Instead of taking that step, the commission wound up relying primarily on the FBI and the CIA to serve as its investigators for the inquiry into the murder of President John F. Kennedy.

FBI officials learned on Dec. 17, 1963—the day after former Solicitor General Lee Rankin was sworn in as general counsel for the Warren Commission—that Rankin was “considering an investigative staff to conduct additional investigation.”

“Frankly I think Rankin should be discouraged from having an investigative staff,” Al Rosen, head of the FBI’s general investigative division, told Alan H. Belmont, one of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover’s top assistants. Rosen said the bureau “should make it clear that we stand ready to run out additional investigative leads the commission wants covered.”

The Senate Intelligence Committee concluded just last year that both the FBI and CIA withheld crucial information from the commission, particularly in connection with the CIA’s attempts to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and in connection with “the significance of Oswald’s contacts with pro-Castro and anti-Castro groups for the many months before the assassination.”

The FBI files, made public this week under the Freedom of Information Act, show that the tip about Rankin’s plans came from the CIA’s chief of counterintelligence, James Angleton, who had “picked up comments from Allen Dulles” about the proposal. Dulles, the CIA’s former director who left the agency shortly after the Bay of Pigs debacle in 1961, was a member of the Warren Commission.

Just six months after the assassination, some Warren Commission officials began worrying about gaps in the evidentiary material amassed by the FBI and about their vulnerability to criticism from outside.

The FBI was never too busy to overlook any damage to its reputation. Top bureau officials were incensed on Nov. 23, 1963, the hectic day after

the assassination, when Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry was reported to have charged publicly that the FBI failed to notify his department about Lee Harvey Oswald even though the bureau had him under surveillance.

In a three-page memo that same day, FBI assistant director Cartha (Deke) DeLoach indignantly related that the Dallas FBI agent in charge, Gordon Shanklin, had been told to get hold of Curry “and set him straight regarding these allegations” and get Curry back on television and in touch with the wire services to inform them “immediately of the falsity of his statements.”

“I asked him [Shanklin] if he knew why Chief Curry would make such stupid statements,” DeLoach reported to the FBI’s John Mohr. “Shanklin stated that Curry was usually very cooperative, a very good friend of the FBI, however, did not think very fast and obviously made the above statements without giving any thought to the repercussions.”

Curry “agreed to make the retractions” and told the media, with apologies to the FBI, according to the memo, “that the FBI was under no responsibility to report to the Dallas Police any individuals of subversive backgrounds who might be in Dallas.”

DeLoach added that “we called our sources at both United Press International and the Associated Press” as well as “Jerry O’Leary of the ‘Washington Evening Star’” who was in Dallas and who agreed to contact Curry immediately. DeLoach said O’Leary later called back to say he had interviewed Curry and “has prepared an article putting Curry on record as stating there was a misunderstanding.”

Curry “further told O’Leary that ‘someone last night told him the FBI had recently interviewed Oswald.’ Curry added that he now knows this to be false.”

FBI agents questioned Oswald twice at length in 1962 following his return from Russia. An FBI agent in New Orleans also interviewed Oswald in August, 1963, following his arrest there in connection with his distribution of Fair Play for Cuba leaflets.

FBI agent James Hosty of Dallas had been looking for Oswald in early November and was informed by Ruth Paine, friend and landlady of Oswald’s wife, Marina, that he was working at the Texas School Book Depository.

Nonetheless, UPI reported on the afternoon of Nov. 23: “Police at first said the FBI, knowing of Oswald and his pro-Communist, pro-Castro background, had questioned him a week ago in Dallas. Later the police withdrew the statement as not in accordance with the facts.”

While the FBI researched its files for derogatory information on people

who may have written things critical of or embarrassing to the bureau, it also kept what it called a “Special Correspondents List,” in which it rewarded its friends, including Leslie Scott, editor of “Security Gazette,” a British publication.

Always attentive to what the national and international media was saying about the assassination and investigation, high-level bureau officials frequently exchanged memos summarizing the latest articles. A Jan. 9, 1964, memo to assistant director DeLoach summarized an article in “Security Gazette,” which described breaches in security surrounding the Kennedy trip to Dallas. The article concluded that the main reasons for the security failure were the lack of coordination between the FBI, the Secret Service and the local police, and the atmosphere of violence in the United States.

Because a search of FBI files showed the bureau to have “friendly relations” with the magazine, the bureau tried the old soft sell.

“In view of the friendly relationship that exists between the FBI and the officials of this publication,” the memo said, “it is felt that the best interest of the bureau would be served by having Legat, London, contact Mr. Scott and tactfully point out to him the splendid relationship that exists

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REMINDER MEMORANDUM

Talk to Bob Bowie about the NIO for Conventional Forces.

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[REDACTED]

Talk to Bowie about the [REDACTED] reports.

— C 4 —

## Brig. Gen. Ralph B. Lovett, 87, Had Careers in Army, VA, CIA

Retired Brig. Gen. Ralph B. Lovett, 87, who spent 30 years in the Army and then worked for the Veterans Administration and the Central Intelligence Agency, died Sunday at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Washington. He had suffered a cardiac arrest following a long illness.

Gen. Lovett joined the Army in 1917, during World War I after working for newspapers in Kansas and Oklahoma, where he was born and grew up. He was trained first in codes and ciphers, but most of his career was devoted to administration and public affairs.

During World War II, he held a number of high staff positions, including chief of personnel of the 8th Air Force in England, and then adjutant general of the European Theater of Operations with headquarters in London.

He retired from the Army in 1947, and became director of administrative services of the Veterans Administration in Washington. In the same year, he moved to the Philippines to head Veterans Administration operations there.

In the early 1950s, Gen. Lovett joined the CIA and remained in the Philippines until his retirement in 1956, when he moved to Arlington.

His military decorations included the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Commendation Medal, Commander in the Order of the British Empire, Chevalier in the Order of Leo-



**RALPH B. LOVETT**

pold of Belgium, the Belgian Croix de Guerre and the French Croix de Guerre.

He was a member of the Army and Navy Club, the Army and Navy Country Club, the National Press Club, the Chicago Athletic Club and the Manila Army and Navy Club, of which he was a charter member.

Survivors include his wife, Sally C., of the home in Arlington, a son, C. B. Lovett, of Alexandria, and two grandchildren.

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20 NOV 1978

REMINDER MEMORANDUM

Talk with John McMahon about  future.

STAT

~~Next ZB meeting, talk to ZB about~~

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HOUSTON POST

10 October 1978

## False paradise

The United States and the Soviet Union are both having problems with migration. The U.S. cannot cope with all the people who want to enter this country, legally or illegally. The U.S.S.R. cannot satisfy all the people who want out of the country. This point never seems to come up in those forums where the United States is being flayed and the U.S.S.R. being praised, both beyond their due.

In the 1930s some idealists throughout the world thought that the new, untried and not-very-well-known Soviet Union had the solutions to unemployment and hunger. Many Jews went there on the offer of a Jewish Autonomous Province set up in 1931, expecting to have a Jewish Autonomous Soviet Republic. Armenian refugees from Turkey immigrated to be with relatives. Some Americans and Europeans went thinking to escape the Depression.

But in the past 10 years, immigration to Russia has dropped off to a handful, while over 200,000 people have emigrated from the Soviet Union. Many more have applied to leave than have been given permission to go. Some 600 people have left illegally as defectors. Ukrainians, Jews, Armenians and citizens of the three Baltic republics are high on the list of defection. Sailors often jump ship. The armed forces account for only 2 percent of the population but 40 percent of those Russians who slip across the border illegally. They go to Finland or West Germany by way of East Germany or to Austria by way of Czechoslovakia. Each person crossing the border illegally knows he may never see home and family again.

But this is not Moscow's only problem. The CIA has verified the growing impression that the Soviet Union is in for long-range economic trouble. Such key industries as oil, coal, steel and cement are slowing down. The Soviet gross national product climbed 4.3 percent in 1976, 3.3 percent last year despite an unusually fine growing season and harvest. The declining quality of ore and shortage of scrap has forced the U.S.S.R. to import over \$4 billion in steel products from the West. Steel shortages cut growth in machinery production to 5.9 percent in the past two years, compared to the 8.2 percent growth rate of the preceding five years. The year's growth in oil production was the lowest in three decades. Fuel shortage and lack of generating capacity cut growth in electric power to 3.5 percent. Coal production barely held even.

Though farm production zoomed to a 7.7 percent growth rate during the splendid season of 1977 and rose another 3.4 percent last year, meat and dairy products are still so scarce that shoppers have to stand in long lines to buy. Even should a record grain crop come in next year, the country would have to buy an extra 15 million to 20 million tons from the West.

In the 1930s the theory was that people would sacrifice the economic freedoms normal to a capitalist society to insure work and food for all and a shared rise in the standard of living. But Soviet citizens have had to sacrifice civil rights and personal freedoms as well without gaining the comforts common to most Western countries. As the economy drags, as the Kremlin pours resources into over- military reasons for leaving the worker's paradise

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Talk to

Church Committee Report highlights.

Article for Foreign Affairs

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS (VT.)  
13 October 1978

## CIA's Unrelenting Arrogance

IN THE NAME of national security, the Central Intelligence Agency has trampled on the rights of many American citizens and has often exceeded the limits of its authority in conducting clandestine activities in other countries.

Recent revelations have indicated that the nation's intelligence apparatus has operated much too close to the line that sets off the legal from the illegal in numerous instances here and abroad.

What has shocked many people in this country has been the fact that the CIA apparently has been accorded a status that puts it above the laws that others must obey.

After being chided by Congress for some of its sinister undertakings, the CIA could have been appropriately contrite by toning down its aggressive behavior toward its countrymen.

Not so.

In the latest scandal, the Wilmington (Del.) News Journal — like the Free Press a Gannett newspaper — broke the story that five CIA officials have put pressure on the Maryland State Police to drop a murder investigation in the case of an agency consultant whose weighted body was found floating in Chesapeake Bay. "For reasons of national security," they have asked Maryland State Police Superintendent Thomas S. Smith to rule that the death of John Arthur Paisley was a

suicide. The dead man had retired in 1974 as deputy director of the CIA's Office of Strategic Research but had continued to serve as a consultant.

Maryland authorities launched their investigation because of the peculiar circumstances of his death.

That the CIA now is putting pressure on them to drop the investigation on vague grounds is reprehensible and unconscionable. Such a demand indicates that the CIA has not changed; its officials are as arrogant and confident as they ever were. And they apparently operate with impunity in the eyes of the administration.

There is a need for a credible intelligence agency in this country. Because CIA officials are either unwilling or unable to curb their appetite for absolute power, questions must be raised about the agency's ability to fulfill its obligations as an intelligence gatherer.

Steps must be taken to guarantee that it does not exceed its authority here or abroad. If President Carter will not take the initiative in holding the agency accountable for its deeds, Congress should impose severe restrictions on its powers to assure the American people and others that it will not overstep its bounds again.